

I want to thank Elizabeth for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES WILLSON

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to James Willson for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

James is a native of Cody, WY, and a graduate of Cody High School. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming College of Law. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank James for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO TOM COURTWAY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor University of Central Arkansas president Tom Courtway who will retire as president of the university in December after nearly 15 years of dedication to higher education in Arkansas.

President Courtway was appointed the 10th president of UCA in 2011, and he has proven himself to be a driving force in improving and expanding the campus for current and future students.

His career has been marked by leadership and dedicated service, which will endure since he will continue to teach at UCA. During his time leading in higher education, he has always put students first and fought to ensure the community had opportunities to succeed.

President Courtway has been lauded for his steady leadership and has been entrusted to serve time and again. In addition to serving as president of the university, he previously represented UCA as general counsel, vice president, and interim president. President Courtway is a strong leader in central Arkansas' dedication to academic vitality, diversity and integrity.

He has also been actively engaged in the legislative process at the State level on behalf of his community. He served the 45th district in the Arkansas Legislature for 6 years, and he also spent a year as the interim director of the Arkansas Department of Education. President Courtway has served his community and State in a remarkable way, pursuing development and

higher education opportunities for the good people of Conway.

I congratulate President Courtway for his outstanding achievements in his career and thank him for his dedication to education, students, and the community. I wish him all the best in retirement and know that his wife, Melissa, and the rest of his family will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with him.●

TRIBUTE TO JIM SPEARS

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor circuit judge Jim Spears who will be retiring in December after serving the people of Sebastian County, AR, for more than 20 years.

Judge Spears has been an active member of the legal community since graduating from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1973. Described by those who know him as "kind, fair and approachable," his 24 years presiding over the Sebastian County Circuit's Third Division have been a testament to his commitment to the people of Arkansas.

Those who have stood in court before Judge Spears have expressed their utmost respect and admiration for his conduct and character.

In addition to his passion for the law, his colleagues say that his commitment to civic involvement is equally important to his years on the bench. Judge Spears has worked closely with the Boy Scouts of America and served on the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission and as board chairman of the U.S. Marshals Museum. He has played a critical role in many community projects including leading the effort to create a bronze statue of U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves.

Judge Spears has been honored by many organizations for his efforts, including the Arkansas Bar Association's Citizen Lawyer award in 2004 for his exemplary service to his community.

I am honored to know Judge Spears and want to thank him for his distinguished service as a leader in the justice system and the community. I wish him the best in his well-earned retirement from the bench, and I look forward to watching him use his talents and passion to continue to serve Arkansas in the years to come.●

DEDICATION OF THE GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS MEMORIAL STATE PARK

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today we honor the lives of 19 courageous Granite Mountain Hotshots by celebrating the dedication of the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park in Yarnell, AZ. I ask that this letter recognizing the occasion be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

U.S. SENATE,
November 29, 2016.

ARIZONA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS,
Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park, Yarnell, AZ.

DEAR FRIENDS: In a proud but solemn moment for all Arizonans, today we celebrate the dedication of the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park.

The 2013 Yarnell Hill Fire was a tragedy that resulted in the lives of 19 brave and fearless Granite Mountain Hotshots. That fateful day on June 30, 2013 was the greatest loss of life for firefighters in a wildfire since 1933 and the greatest loss of firefighters in the United States since the September 11th attacks. This Memorial State Park is a most fitting tribute to these remarkable firefighters who selflessly risked their own lives to protect others and their community in the beautiful Arizona town of Yarnell.

I thank Arizona State Parks and the Yarnell Hill Memorial Site Board, who made this designation possible. With this wonderful memorial, I hope the family and friends of those Hotshots who passed may find peace and comfort in this historic designation, which will forever preserve and honor the memory of these brave souls.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all on this occasion, and I send best wishes for a memorable event.

Sincerely,

JOHN MCCAIN,
U.S. Senator.●

REMEMBERING RICHARD D. ROGERS

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, it is my honor today to honor the life of a revered Kansan, U.S. District Court Judge Richard D. Rogers, who passed away on November 26 of this year at the age of 94.

Richard Rogers was devoted to public service in every sense. He was a decorated veteran, having received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service flying 33 combat missions as a bombardier in World War II. He served the town of Manhattan, KS, as both its mayor and city commissioner. He served as a State legislator in both chambers of the Kansas Legislature, rising to the title of President of the Senate. And in 1975, President Gerald Ford appointed Richard Rogers to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas, a position he held for more than 40 years.

Judge Rogers represented the very best of the greatest generation, unselfishly giving of himself and his time to improve the lives of those around him. A graduate of Wamego High School, Kansas State University, and later the University of Kansas School of Law, he took an active interest in his State, its people, and their many different walks of life.

His understanding of Kansans carried over to the courtroom where colleagues say Judge Rogers served with great wisdom and fairness. Judge Rogers' contemporaries also remember him as a mentor and friend, someone often consulted for his breadth of knowledge, his geniality, and his humility until he stepped down from his position on the Federal bench on August 7, 2015.

Richard Rogers was a pillar of the Manhattan and Topeka communities,